

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 051926Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1112
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14514

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, LY, CD, FR
SUBJ: CHAD

1. DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION AT DCM RESIDENCE
MAY 5, QUAI DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, GEORGY,
SAID HE HAS NO DOUBT THAT QADHAFI (WHOM HE KNOWS FROM
PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT AS AMBASSADOR IN TRIPOLI) IS PLAY-
ING A DOUBLE GAME IN CHAD. WHILE TALKING OF THE NEED
TO OBSERVE THE CEASEFIRE AND ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT, HE HAS GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO GOUKOUNI
TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE. FOR ALL HIS DUPLICITY, HOW-
EVER, HE IS ESSENTIALLY A SIMPLE MAN AND HIS GOAL IN
CHAD IS THE CREATION OF A "JAMAHIR" IN NORTHERN CHAD
ENCOMPASSING ALL THE COUNTRY'S MUSLIMS WHICH WOULD
THEN BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIBYAN JEHAHIRIYYA. BUT
IN USING GOUKOUNI FOR HIS OWN ENDS, QADHAFI (LIKE
BOUMEDIENE TO THE WEST) MAY WELL BE INTRODUCING FORCES
INTO THE REGION WHICH HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL
IN THE LONGER TERM.

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2. GEORGY SAID THAT FRANCE CONSIDERS CHAD IMPORTANT
STRATEGICALLY BECAUSE IT IS A HUGE CHUNK OF TERRI-
TORY IN THE MIDDLE OF AFRICA WHICH MUST BE DENIED TO
SOVIET INFLUENCE. JUST AS IMPORTANT IS THE FACT THAT
IT NEIGHBORS THE VITALLY IMPORTANT SUDAN. IF CHAD WERE
TO FALL UNDER SOVIET INFLUENCE THE SUDAN WOULD BE

FURTHER ISOLATED AND ITS SECURITY THREATENED.

3. GEORGY SAID THAT THE FRENCH AIM IN CHAD IS LIMITED AS IT MUST BE, GIVEN THE LIMITED RESOURCES AT FRANCE'S DISPOSAL. THE MALLOUM GOVERNMENT CANNOT NEGOTIATE A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION IF THE CAPITAL IS THREATENED WITH FALLING TO THE REBELS AT ANY TIME. THE FRENCH ROLE IS TO GIVE TIME AND MANEUVERING ROOM FOR TALKS TO TAKE PLACE. ONCE THE PALAVER BEGINS IT MAY TAKE UNPREDICTABLE AND ODD TWISTS FROM A WESTERN PERSPECTIVE, BUT IT MAY ALSO RESULT IN AN AFRICAN SOLUTION WITH SOME CHANCE OF STICKING.
HARTMAN

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NNN

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